

Roascoe W. Brown
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Mar 8th, 1941

(Part 1)

(Sec D)

THOMAS CREEK . Thomas Creek gives rise near the water shed of Thorny Creek near the site of the Senica C.C.C. Camp ~~and flows~~ , and flows North to connect with the Sitlington Creek $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles East of Sitlington,

It has a meandering length of 6 miles with a total fall of 900 feet , with a rate of fall per mile of 150 feet. and has ~~has~~ an area of drainage basin of 8.97 square miles.

The Thomas Creek water drainage basin, was mostly covered with the famous white pine trees, which was cut over, and operated about the year of 1885.

The Senica State Game Forest ^{is situated} , to the South and North-West , and the State Game and Fish Commission, has erected, their care keepers home , near the head of this branch .

Thomas Creek was first settled by the decendants of the pioneer John Mc Laughlin and William Mc Laughlin, about the time of the formation of Pocahontas County, whose decendants were among the most popular and prominent citizens of Pocahontas County and were natives of Ireland.

Robert Dunlap, McCutchan; settled on Thomas Creek in the year of 1826. Far and near this family would attend religious worship , the weather be what it might . For years Greenbank , eight miles away , and Huntersville twelve miles away, were the ~~nearest~~ nearest points of the church service of their preference.

Thomas Creek received its name from an old pioneer by the name "Thomas", who had settled for a time on the head waters of the creek, ; of whom little is known, but as long as the branch continues to flow, it will perpetuate his memory.

Some folks are of the opinion that it was named after Thomas Hatten who owned land near the mouth of Sitlington creek.

MOSES SPRING RUN. Moses Spring Run flows in to the Greenbrier River, opposite the site of the Raywood Lumber Town, 2 miles south of Cass.

It has a total length of 2.9 miles, and a fall of 474.1 ^{feet per} mile, with a total fall of 1375 feet. → drainage basin area of 1.86 square miles. It is situated on the west side of Greenbrier River and gives rise in one of the most copious, and beautiful Springs in Pocahontas County, - is near the residence of the late Joe McLaughlin about 2 miles west of Cass,

The Moses Spring Run received its name from one of the very first settlers of Pocahontas County; It is a small branch, of pure clear, cold water but carries with its name, and the incident that brought about its name, one of the thrilling incidents, that was common among the pioneers, and Indians of the Greenbrier Valley,.

Moses Moore settled on Knappa Creek about the year of 1770, and during the first years of his pioneer life, in the region of Pocahontas County, he spent much of his time hunting, and trapping ^{on} Back Alleghany, and the upper Greenbrier River, and the vicinity of Clover Lick.

He was a close observer of Indian movements, and would make careful search for Indian signs before resuming operations, as the hunting seasons returned. The usual place for the Indians to cross the Greenbrier River, in the hunting grounds of that region, was at a narrow place in the river, narrow enough for the Indians to vault with a pole. He would take notice accordingly which side of the River the vaulting-poles would be on, and acted accordingly. Finally the Indians seemed to have found out his strategy, and thereupon vaulted the narrow passage, and cunningly threw the poles back on the other side. This threw the hunter off his guard.

It was Saturday; he set his traps, looked after deer sign, and arranged his camp.

It was the hunter's purpose to pass the Sabbath at his camp in quiet repose, and devotional reading of the Bible, he always carried with him for company.

He had put a fat turkey to roast about daylight, and was reclining on a bear skin reading a lesson from the Bible, preparatory to a season of meditation, and prayer,

before breakfast , a habit so characteristic of the Scotch- Irish at that period of time. He was interrupted by the breaking of a stick, and upon looking intently and steadily in the direction whence the sound seemed to have come, he saw five or six warriors aiming their guns and moving cautiously upon him.

Seeing there was no chance to escape, hemmed in as he was, he threw up his hands and made signs for them to come to him. he put the turkey before them and made signs for them to eat. By gestures and guteral grunting, they gave him to understand that they would not touch it, unless he would eat some first. He did so, and thereupon they devoured it ravenously, and it was no time that scarcely a fragment remained even of the bones.

Soon as breakfast was over , they started for their home in Ohio. Having passed but a few miles , they halted at what the pioneer afterwards called the Moses Spring and ever since that time the little branch, has been handed down from generation to generation as the Moses Spring Run.

The prisoner was securely bound with buffalo raw hide thongs, and pinioned to the ground. a detachment went off in the direction of Stony bottom , and were gone two or three hours. When they Indians returned they were loaded down with ore .

(It appears by the tradition that there was a lead mine somewhat in this locality)

this Ore was carried to a place where an othe halt was made, and the ore was smelted and reduced in weight ; so that one could carry what had required two to bring in as raw material.

The prisoner (Moses Moore) was taken as far as Chilacothé and the Indians seemed to have been greatly elated over their capture. So much so that as a special compliment of the Indian Squaws , it was decided in solemn council , of inquiry what to do with the prisoner; and it was decided that he should run the gauntlet.

The Indians seemed to have known of nothing so intensely amusing than running the gauntlet, and of no compliment more flattering to their favorite squaw friends than have them to form the sauntlet lines , and leave it to them to torment the captive. Accordingly two lines of squaws were drawn up about six or eight feet apart

One captive had preceded Moses Moore, who was stabbed , bruised and hacked to pieces.

This made him think it was only death any way . He entered the line and passed scrod distance , finally a squaw with a long handled frying pan struck him. He wrenched the pan from her and knocked her down with his fist and then striking right and left with the handle of the frying pan, he proceeded along the lines, and many of the squaws ran away . When Moses Moore had scattered them . the warriors crowded around him patted and praised him, " good soldier" " good soldier " and decided that he should be allowed to live. By degrees he secured the confidence of his captors. In hunting he was very successful and the Indian who was his keeper would give him amunition, a part of which he would secret. The suply of amunition was gradually increasing, and the given ^{time} to be absent was extended two or three days .

With the increase of rations , of powder and bullets, and extension of time, he venture to make escape, and got a start so far ahead that the Indians could see no hopeful chance of recapturing him.

Moses Run was so^lnamed by the fact that Moses Moore was bound and pinioned to the ground by the Indians near the large spring at the head of the branch . And as long as ~~as~~ long as it continues to flow it will perpetuate the memory of Moses Moore , one of Pocahontas Counties brave pioneers.

(The Venerable William Collins informed the compiler of the Pocahontas County Historical sketches, that he was sure, that the camping spot, where Moses Moore was captured by the wiley Indians , was on the Collins place on the Greenbsier River near the Cassell fording at a place near Tub Mill ; this is in the Hosterman Vicinity.)

NATURAL SETTING Pocahontas County

Roscoe W. Brown.

CHAPTER THREE.

*Roscoe W. Brown,
May 3rd, 1941*

Part 1)
Sec D)

GAULEY RIVER;- The Gauley River drainage is of minor importance of to Pocahontas County except that it has its source within the bounds of Pocahontas County limits, in three branches - North Fork, South Fork, and Middle Fork, - high up in the west side of the ^{ye w} ~~new~~ and Gauley Mountains. Flowing west across the acute angle of the southern end of Randolph County these three forks unite at Three Forks of Gauley at the Randolph- Webster County line and there the main Gauley continues in a general south west direction, draining, with its tributaries, all of Webster County south of Elk River. It continues well entrenched, across Webster and Nicholas Counties, to unite with New River at Gauley Bridge, Fayette County, to form the Great Kanawaha. Its principal tributaries within the area touching Pocahontas are Cherry, Cranberry, and Williams Rivers.

The Gauley River has an entire length of 104 miles, as it meanders in its a natural course; but has an air line distance of only 59.2 miles, with a total fall of 3,352 feet or at the average rate of 32.23 feet per mile. And according to the Geological Survey for Webster County, has a drainage area of 1350.37 square miles.

CHERRY RIVER OF THE GAULEY.

The Cherry River heads in two forks, North and South, in south west Pocahontas County, and flows west across northern Greenbrier County into Nicholas County, to join Gauley River at Curtain. The Cherry River in Pocahontas County has a drainage area basin of 5.20 square miles.

How the River got the name of "GAULEY" or what it signifies, is a question that is vague, and obscure. Some folks are of the opinion that it was so named by the French explorers, nothing could be more natural for French explorers to call this beautiful stream Gaule after the ancient name of France.

But there is a current tradition handed down by the early pioneers of the Gauley River section, that there was a Scotch Irish pioneer hunting, and first coming out on the Rocky bluff above the mouth of Meadow River,

And was so surprised at seeing such a large River, that he used a slang phrase to give vent to his surprised feeling, at his first sight of the River, by saying "GOLLY" what a River! and from which the word Gauley was coined; .

Gauley River was called by the Miamis Indians, Chin-que-ta-na-cepe-we; And by the Deleware, To-ke-bel-lo-ke, or Falling Creek.

ANTHONY CREEK:- Anthony Creek, the largest tributary of the Greenbrier River has its source in the Greenbrier County near the Pocahontas County line and the greater part of its drainage in Greenbrier County. It heads in the Allegheny Mountain in the extreme north east corner of Greenbrier County but flows north west into Pocahontas County for a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles when it swings south west to enter Greenbrier County again and continues in this direction to Alton. Here it swings more to the West cutting a deep gorge between Beaver Lick and Greenbrier Mountains to join the Greenbrier River at Anthony.

It has a total length of 28.65 miles with a fall of 1470 feet, at a rate of 51.3 feet per mile. It has a total drainage area basin of 146, 93 square miles.

Only 3.7 miles of its length is in Pocahontas County, with a drainage area of 6.52 square miles.

NORTH FORK OF ANTHONY CREEK;- The North Fork of Anthony Creek has the greater part of its drainage in Greenbrier County, but heads on Beaver Lick Mountain in Pocahontas County. It flows in a south west direction between Beaver Lick and Middle Mountains to a point $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from its mouth where it swings due South to terminate the Middle Mountain, and join Anthony Creek at Neola, it has a total length of 12.45 miles with a drainage area of 22.77 square miles.

The North Fork of Anthony Creek in Pocahontas County is 5 miles long, with a fall of 825 feet with a rate of fall per mile of 165 feet. and has a drainage area of 1.14 square miles.

Anthony Creek received its name from a friendly Indian by the name of ANTHONY

INDIAN DRAFT : - The Indian Draft , is a small branch that rises in the Elk Mountain South of Gay Knob and flows in a southerly direction to connect with Stony Creek at Campbell Town, a total distance of 5.2 miles and has a fall of 1060 feet, with a rate of fall of 203.8 feet per mile, and has a drainage area of 7.49 square miles .

The Indian Draft: is one of the small branches of Pocahontas County , that carries with it , more historical incidents , in its vicinity than any other small branch in the County; And in order to give an idea of the many events that have actually happened , upon, and around about the Indian Draft , and which has lead to the naming of the " INDIAN Draft, a few of the ^{incidents} are found in a letter written by Calvin W. Price, in The Pocahontas Times bearing date of April 10 th 1941

Which is hereby given in full:

I have been asked to write some things I know about the Indian Draft. A draft is a narrow valley between two leading ridges. Indian Draft reaches from Elk Mountain to Stony Creek at Campbell Town. The Indians travelled it; the trails forked just below Edray. One trace, a section of the War Path from New York to Georgia went by Edray to cross Elk Mountain , and the other to Clover Lick., The first roads followed Indian trails, and our highways still do, more or less. When the Marlin Bottom and Huttonsville Turnpike nearly a century ago, the route was taken up on Drennin Ridge, as accommodation to homes and farms on the ridge rather than up the water grade of the narrow Draft where no one lived below the forks.

I recall hearing back in my childhood some of the older people speaking of small bands of Indians camping at the mouth of the Indian Draft . These Indians were traveling back and forth from Ohio to Wasington. The lands around the Edray branch of the Indian Draft were first opened by Thomas Drennan. The tract embraced thousands of acres I know now that the site of the Drennin cabin was by a spring on the land of Squire A.R.Gay. In my young days no one was supposed to know exactly where the pioneer home stood , as it marked the beginning corner of one of the immense land grants, the Gallagher Survey. These Grants was the bane of settlers, casting shadow on land titles until the courts definitely decided that the best possible title was ten years

uninterrupted possession under fence. My recollection of the Gallagher Survey is ~~the~~ the first call from the Drinnen cabin was a straight line to a black sugar in the low place on Clover Creek Mountain, eight or more miles away. I do not now recall the bearing. I can ~~only~~ remember when only a black hearted traitor would point out a known corner to one of these old land grants. I recall hearing of an ex-Confederate soldier working all day Sunday to dig out, split up and burn of a great red oak, back on Gallagher Flat on Days Mountain because it was a known corner of the Gallagher Survey. The home of Thomas Drennon was broked up by Indians.

His wife was taken captive and murdered on Elk Mountain a few miles from her home. I have heard that this Indian Raid was prior the Revolution, though 1797 was probably the year.

Late the Drennon homestead passed into possession of ~~the~~ Robert Moore, son of the pioneer Moses Moore. It is likely that the first time Robert Moore set foot on the lands some day to be his own was when as a boy he came from the east, now Rockbridge County, with his father and others in the pursuit of French Surveyors and their Indian Guides. At the forks of Indian Draft the Frenchmen were ambushed. An Indian was killed and a Frenchman was wounded. Some fifty years since human remains were unearthed near the forks of the Draft.

The dispersion of the exploring party might have originated some of the legends of buried treasure on Indian Draft and in several not distant localities-- Cloverlick Marlinton, Stony Creek, and Millpoint. Near the mouth of Indian Draft on the Greenbrier River was the home of Lawrence Drennon, a brother of Thomas Drennon.

In 1784 Indians made a raid on his home. Henry Baker was shot and killed as he was climbing a fence, returning from his morning wash. Richard Hill jumped the fence and escaped unhurt. John and James Bridger were killed in the same Indian Raid.

Patrick Slater was the School teacher in the family at that time. School House meadow is not far from the mouth of Indian Draft.

In 1765 Indians raided the Bath Alum settlement in what is now Bath County. The Indians started back to the Ohio with prisoners, among them a Mrs Mayse, her son Joseph, a white girl, name now unknown, a Mrs Sloan and her infant daughter. The third night the Indians ^{descended} 3 miles down Knappe Creek from Huntersville. on the Fourth day the

pursuing party overtook the Indians just after they had crossed the Greenbrier River at the Island Ford where the tannery is now. When the firing started the Indians killed the Sloan baby by dashing its head against a tree. The shots scared the pack horse on which the 13 year old Joseph was riding, and the boy was thrown off in a patch of nettles. The Indians escaped with three other prisoners going by way of Indian Draft. The boy was found in the Nettle patch, and he grew up to lose a leg in the Battle of Point Pleasant, 1774. The body of the murdered infant was buried near where the present Marlinton and Huntersville road crosses Marlin Run near the Court House. The prisoners were ransomed from the Indians at Detroit after a year or two of captivity.

In the war between the States, a Union prisoner named Vorville, knocked his guard out with a rock, at the Gay house above the Fair Ground, and escaped. At the mouth of Indian Draft he was overhauled, offered resistance and was shot.

In his diary the late Bishop Asbury, father of the Methodist Church in the United States speaks of Drennon on Indian Draft as one of his regular stopping places on his itineraries from Main to Georgia. The Bishop records he would spend a day at Drinnon prepare for, and a day at Mingo Flats, to recuperate from the twenty mile ride through the then Elk Valley Wilderness.

Indian Draft is haunted by the spirit of John Drennon, a young soldier in the war of 1812, who died of at Noffolk. The late William Gay, Sr. as a boy was returning from a mill on Knapps Creek by way of Indian Draft. The horse stopped suddenly and the mill boy looked to see what for. There in a fence corner he saw young John Drennon wrapped in a blanket, taking his rest. Before the boy could speak, the horse bolted off at break neck speed. The boy told the family he had seen soldier John on his way home and would soon hear the news of the war. When John did not appear at home he was looked for but could not be found. The matter was a mystery to the people of that day until David Cochran and John R. Flemmons came home from the war, bringing the news of the death of young Drennon. The time of his death and the time young Gay saw him the apparition beside the road coincided.

There is a tradition of buried treasure on Indian Draft . English speaking prisoners of pirates on the lower Mississippi took some of their captors treasure in escaping-- a whole pot full of it; presumably two gallons in size . Up the Mississippi, up the Ohio, up the Kanawaha, up the Gauley, up the Williams, down Stony Creek to Indian Draft . There they buried it, to await the return from the English speaking settlement east of the Endless Mountains . So far as tradition goes the men never returned and so far as I know to the contrary the Gold and the Silver and the precious stones still await a finder. However, some say it is not on Indian Draft at all, but Cloverlick Creek or Stony Creek , or Stamping Creek are the places to look. Only a year or two ago, people from the north west of the state were here with old maps, looking for the buried treasure. In the war between the States, the Eighth and Sixteenth regiments of Tennessee Infantry camped at Edray , on Indian Draft in August 1861. Measles broke out and a number of men died . Their bones lie there to this day.

Fifty years ago one of the Tennessee soldiers wrote of the Indian Draft country:

" We wish we could , with proper word and in some beautiful language , give a perfect description of the scenery around about Edray; with all its clear , limpid springs of pure water, its lofty mountains reaching up into the sky "... //

SPICE RUN;-

Spice Run has its source in several small branches high up in the Beaver Lick Mountain, and flows in a general westward direction to form the Greenbrier-Pocahontas line for some five miles to where it joins the Greenbrier River.

It has a meandering length of 6.1 miles with a total fall of 1000 feet or at the rate of 163.9 feet per mile. It has a drainage area of 8.34 square miles.

The Spice Run received its name at a very early period of time, along years before the formation of Pocahontas County, and was made the boundary line between Greenbrier and Pocahontas, and was named for the Spicewood Bush, or Spice Bush which was found upon the Branch, which is an ornamental shrub of the Laurel family native to most of the Eastern United States. The small yellow flowers are followed by spicy scarlet fruits and the foliage and bark are also aromatic. The bark was formerly used in household medicine. The dried and powdered berries was used for as a substitute for all spice in the Revolutionary War and the leaves were brewed for tea in the Civil War.

The Spice Bush, which is closely related to the Sassafras, is used horticulturally. It is also called the Benjamin Bush. (See Colum- Encyclopedia)

LOCUST CREEK:- Locust Creek in a large Spring against the east side of the Droop Mountain and flows south for a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles where it is joined by a small tributary in Trump Run and continues east to the Greenbrier River at Locust Station. It is a short Run with a considerable volume of water with a slight fall. This run is a continuation of Hills Creek which sinks beneath Droop Mountain on the opposite side. It was reported that coloring matter was placed in Hills Creek and was found to emerge in the head of Locust Creek. Locust Creek has a drainage area of 9.98 square miles. has a total fall of 135 feet.

HILLS CREEK;- Hills Creek heads high up in the Kinnison Mountain of Ewe Mountains and flows west for some three miles where it is joined by a small branch and turns south to form a series of beautiful falls in " Falls of Hills Creek " It continues south east, being joined by smaller branches, to a point $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Lobelia

where it sinks into the Greenbrier Limestone beneath Droop Mountain, it has a total length of 8.4 miles, with a total fall of 1525 feet, and a rate of fall per mile of 181.5 feet, and has a drainage area basin of 31.60 square miles.

Hills Creek was named in honor of the Pioneer Richard Hill, ^{whose} ancestral blood courses the veins of a great many worthy citizens of Pocahontas County. It is generally believed that he came to this region soon after the armies of the Revolution were disbanded, from North Carolina. As long as Hills Creek flows and continues to pass under the Droop Mountain his name will be perpetuated. He was one of the most distinguished of the early pioneers as a scout and a vigilant defender of the Forts of Pocahontas County in the pioneer days.

BRUFFEYS CREEK;:- Bruffey Creek is a small stream with its source west of Viney Mountain and flows south where it is joined by Cave Run and sinks beneath the surface one mile south east of Lobelia. It has an entire length of 3.9 miles and has a fall of 1400 feet, and a rate of fall per mile of 358.9 feet, and has a drainage area of 3.8 square miles. Bruffeys Creek was named from the pioneer John Bruffey who settled on the branch before the formation of Pocahontas County, and many of his descendants bearing his name are still living in the vicinity of Bruffey Creek.

OLDHAM RUN:- Oldham Run rises west of Burr Valley and flows in a westward direction south of Pond Ridge, and is joined by Perry and Nigh Gap Runs, and enters the Greenbrier River one half mile due east of Locust Station. It has a total length of 5.4 miles, with a total fall of 830 feet, with a rate of fall per mile of 153.7 feet and has drainage area of 8.01 square miles.

Oldham Run, Received its name from Joseph Oldham who first received a land grant in the vicinity of the Branch, while under the regime of Bath County bearing date of 1809.